

## Getting ready for some artwork

**Rebecca Jim | Posted: Wednesday, September 4, 2013 10:00 am**

I am still going to submit an article to the Miami News Record about the upcoming Science and Art Contests LEAD Agency is sponsoring, but the new Americorps/VISTA Volunteer, Gary Jones for the Boys and Girls Club, came by our office recently, and he was amazed by the artwork hung throughout our office.

He even took pictures of many of the pieces. Art can make a difference, and I believe it has on the local issues, but throughout the history of the environmental movement images reached across generations and changed the world. I don't think there would have ever been an Earth Day, the Clean Air Act or Clean Water Act without art-motivated messages.

The theme for the 15th National Environmental Conference at Tar Creek is "Lead and Beyond" so do not feel constricted to creating a project focused on lead or even Tar Creek. There are so many issues we face locally and globally. Choose and challenge yourself to enter, or nudge someone else to find their voice and get involved.

For years youth have been expressing their opinions about their environment by submitting artwork, poetry, essays and research papers to various art contests. LEAD Agency is asking for entries again this year. What's different? There is no age restriction. Anyone can enter. We are encouraging songs and film. Be creative. What is the other difference? Submit a science entry. You determine which category your work best fits, art or science.

Who wins? We all do, because one more person made a conscience effort to express an opinion about the only environment we will ever have. Each item submitted will make the artist or scientist eligible for the drawings for bikes. How many bikes will be given? Bikes are being donated by tribal departments and from LEAD Agency, individuals and local businesses and we will give away all of the bikes that are donated.

Entries can be turned in by 4 p.m., Friday, Sept. 13. But if you weren't quite finished bring them to the Miami Civic Center by noon, Wednesday, Sept. 18.

If you want to be judged and actually meet the judges from the Harvard School of Public Health, then be in attendance by 5 p.m., Sept. 18, to be able to visit personally with the judges about your science or art project. There will be cash awards to the winners in each category, science or art.

The public is welcome to come to the conference, for all of the two-day event or for a part of a day. Come at 5 p.m., Sept. 18, and you will be able to meet the judges and the talented people who submitted art and science projects.

For more information check out a flyer on the lead agency Facebook or website or give us a call at LEAD Agency, 918-542-9399.

LEAD Agency is getting ready for our annual conference to be held at the Miami Civic Center Sept. 18-19, and we hope you are, too. We will see you there.

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